Commission and feedback from other stakeholders Government have formulated a draft National Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006 (Part-A—excluding pricing) which has been circulated to various stakeholders seeking their comments. Based on the comments received the Government is likely to finalize the new Policy shortly.

Shortage of fertilizers

26. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of fertilizers for the second consecutive year;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether such shortage and delayed availability of fertilizers is hampering crop yield and pushing up prices of agricultural produce in the market;

(d) if so, the details in this regard;

(e) whether Government are considering to create a buffer stock of fertilizers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE), (a) to (d) No, Sir. The demand and supply of major fertilizers during the last year and in the current year is as under:—

(Qty. in lakh MT)

	Season	Assessed Demand	Availability	Sales	Closing Stock
UREA	Kharif 2004	105.73	106.60	97.82	8.79
	Rabi 2004-05	108.35	117.08	107.67	9.40
	Kharif 2005	114.39	116.20	107.67	8.53
	Rabi 2005-06	119.86	125.56*		
DAP	Kharif 2004	31.21	33.31	23.5	9.65
	Rabi 2004-05	39.39	40.23	37.13	3.11

	Season	Assessed Demand	Availability	Sales	Closing Stock
	Kharif 2005	3345	36.81	25.17	11.63
	Rabi 2005-06	44.61	48.92*		
MOP	Kharif 2004	10.84	12.53	10.99	1.53
	Rabi 2004-05	12.37	13.33	12.11	1.22
	Kharif 2005	13.89	18.82	13.25	5.57
	Rabi 2005-06	14.99	25.49*		

*Estimated Availability

(e) and (f) Yes Sir. Urea is the only fertilizer that is under partial distribution control and 50% of the urea produced in the country is allocated to States under Essential Commodities Act (EGA). In case of the major decontrolled fertilizer such as DAP, Government maintains Buffer Stock to meet any exigent situation. During the current financial year 2005-06, keeping in view of the lower production of DAP in the country due to tight availability of raw materials/intermediates in the international market, the Department enhanced the buffer stock to about 8 lakh MT of DAP during the current financial year.

The entire demand of MOP is met through imports, as there are no exploitable reserves of MOP in the country. Keeping in view the adequate imports of MOP during the year, no buffer stock of MOP is maintained.

Guidelines for classifying drugs

27. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1995, does not make any distinction between life-saving drugs and other drugs;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there are no guidelines to classify that certain drugs are life-saving drugs;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Pronab Sen Task Force set up to look into the various issues of life-saving drugs has submitted its Report; and